

REMARKS

The present Amendment amends claims 1-19 and adds new claim 20. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 1-20.

The specification stands rejected to under 35 USC §112, first paragraph as allegedly being "replete with terms which are not clear concise and exact". Various amendments were made throughout the specification to clarify the language in the specification such that the public is fully apprise of the meets and bounds of Applicants invention. Particularly, amendments were made to the specification so as to comply with the written description and enablement requirement of 35 USC §112, first paragraph. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC §112, first paragraph objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-5 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regards as their invention. Various amendments were made throughout claims 3-5 to bring them into conformity with the requirements of 35 USC §112, second paragraph. Therefore, this rejection with respect to claims 3-5 is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Specifically, amendments were made throughout claims 3-5 to overcome the objections noted by the Examiner in the Office Action.

Claims 1-19 stand rejected under 35 USC §101 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Various amendments were made throughout claims 1-19 so as to clarify the features of the present invention so that the claims are clearly directed to a practical application implemented by well known apparatus. Particularly, as illustrated, for example, in Fig. 1 of the

present application a processor 100 including a review support processor 101 performs various processes on data stored in storage 104 based upon inputs from an input unit 102 such that the inputs and results of the processes being performed by the processor 100 are displayed on a display unit 103. Since the claims are directed to an apparatus such as that illustrated in Fig. 1, a method implemented by the apparatus and an article of manufacture having stored therein a program executable by the apparatus, the claims are in fact directed to patentable subject matter in accordance with the requirements of 35 USC §101. Thus, claims 1-17 and 20 are directed to a machine, claim 18 is directed to a process and claim 19 is directed to an article of manufacture, each being one of the permitted statutory classes under 35 USC §101. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims under 35 USC §101 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-19 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Day (U.S. Patent No. 6,243,722). This rejection is traversed for the following reasons. Applicants submit that the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in claims 1-19 are not taught or suggested by Day whether taken individually or in combination with any of the other references of record. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Amendments were made to the claims to more clearly describe features of the present invention as recited in the claims. Particularly, amendments were made to the claims to recite that the present invention is directed to a document review support apparatus according to the present

invention includes a storage which stores position-attribute management information defining items of position information to be acquired from a document to be reviewed, the position-attribute management information being stored independently from the document to be reviewed, an input unit which receives, from an user, an input including a designation of a position in the document to be reviewed at which a comment is to be added, and the comment, an acquiring unit, responsive to the input from the input unit, which acquires the position information from a position designated by the user in accordance with the position-attribute management information and the storage and stores, as an entry to comment-solution management information defining a comment and a solution to the comment, the position information and the comment in the storage such that the position information and the comment information are correlated to each other, a search unit, coupled with the input unit and the acquiring unit, which searches, from the position-attribute management information and the comments-solution management information stored in the storage, the position information and the comment associated with the document to be reviewed, and a display unit, coupled to the search unit, which collectively displays at least position information and the comment associated with the document to be reviewed so as to correlate the at least position information and the comment to each other.

The above described features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims are not taught or suggested by any of the other references of record whether taken individually or in combination with each other. Particularly, the above described features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims are not taught or suggested by Day.

Day discloses a method and system for a network-based document review tool utilizing comment classification. Day teaches that an object to be reviewed is limited to a document such as an HTML document to which a tag is attachable as per Day. To identify a portion or location of the document to be reviewed to which a comment is requested, a document creator has to embed a tag into the document to be reviewed and convert the document into a document form which can be reviewed. In Day no specific structure or function is disclosed on correlating a comment with a corresponding location of a document at which the comment is added as in the present invention.

The present invention provides an apparatus, method and program, article of manufacture in which position attribute management table is provided independently from a document to be reviewed, thereby causing the document object to be reviewed to not be dependent upon the type of document.

According to the present invention, a reviewer can freely select a range of the document within which the reviewer wants to make a comment and can apply her or his comment to the document. In the present invention, comment-solution management table manages information regarding documents and comments externally of the documents, so that a process for converting the document is not needed.

Further, according to the present invention, the comment-solution management table can define a correlation between different documents, so that a comment corresponding to a certain document may be reflected to an associated document as well, where the associated document is limited to

three types or classifications of documents which are a document to be reviewed; review minutes and a pending issue management list.

Still further according to the present invention, the position attribute management table defines items to be acquired from a document to be reviewed. The attributes are different depending upon the type or classification of document, so that the attributes need to be defined differently depending on a different document. For example, in the case of a text document, a "line" and a "digit" are defined as attributes. In the case of a table calculation document, a "row" and a "column" are defined.

The above described features and advantages of the present invention are not taught or suggested by Day.

Fig. 8 of Day shows a pop-up implementation for inputting a comment. In contrast, the present invention provides a comment-solution management table by which means for storing information into the table may take a different display manner as illustrated in the attached Sketch which corresponds to Fig. 6 of the present application. The attached Sketch shows a frame which is preset to write a comment in for editing. Day does not teach or suggest the review of a document being supported using a combination of position-attribute management information (table) and comment-solution management information (table) as in the present invention as recited in the claims.

Thus, Day fails to teach or suggest a storage unit which stores position attribute management information defining items of positions information to be acquired from a document to be reviewed, wherein the position attribute

management information is stored independently from the document to be reviewed as recited in the claims.

Further, Day fails to teach or suggest an acquiring unit, responsive to the input from the input unit, which acquires the position information from a position designated by the user in accordance with the position attribute management information in the storage and stores, as an entry to comment solution management information defining a comment in a solution, the position information and the comment information in the storage such that the position information and the comment information are correlated to each other as recited in the claims.

Still further, Day fails to teach or suggest a search unit, coupled to the input unit and the acquiring unit, which searches, from the position attribute management information and the comment solution management information stored in the storage, the position information in common associated with the document to be reviewed as recited in the claims.

Still further yet, Day fails to teach or suggest a display unit, coupled to the search unit, which collectively displays at least position information and a comment in associated the document to be reviewed so as to correlate the at least position information and the comment to each other as recited in the claims.

Therefore, Day fails to teach or suggest the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC §102(b) rejection of claims 1-19 as being anticipated by Day is respectfully requested.

The remaining references of record have been studied. Applicants submit that they do not supply any of the deficiencies noted above with respect to the reference utilized in the rejection of claims 1-19.

As indicated above, the present Amendment adds new claim 20 which depend from claim 1. Thus, the same arguments presented above with respect to claim 1 apply as well to claim 20. Therefore, claim 20 is allowable of the references of record for the same reason as set forth above with respect to claim 1.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants submit that claims 1-20 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 1-20 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (ASA-1163).

Respectfully submitted,

MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C.



Carl I. Brundidge
Registration No. 29,621

CIB/jdc
(703) 684-1120

Best Available Copy

Sketch modified from Fig. 6

【図6】レビュー対象文書202に指摘を追記する例示図

